(d) The sales of shares of these companies have been carried out on the basis of the prevailing market prices.

Oil exploration by private parties

2587. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a sharp increase in reserves given to private parties for exploration of oil;

(b) if so, the details thereof, party-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that earlier estimate of reserves was nearly half of what is estimated now;

(d) who did the estimation earlier and who has done the same now; and

(e) does it mean that there is any loss to Government in charging the fees based on the lower estimate of reserves earlier?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) While initial in place reserves in most of the fields awarded to Joint venture/private parties have increased, it has also decreased in some fields.

As per the initial estimation by ONGC/OIL, the reserves in joint venture fields was 421.248 million metric tonnes (MMT). This has increased to 497.77 as on 1.4.98 as per estimation by the Operator/DGH/JV.

In the case of private fields the initial estimation by ONGC was 23.682 MMT. This has increased to 61.695 to 84.034 MMT as on 1.4.98 as per estimation by DGH/Operator.

(e) No, Sir.

Alliance between IOC and ONGC

2588. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for a strategic alliance between the IOC and ONGC;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what impact is it going to have on the working of these two public sector companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal for a corporate strategic alliance between IOC and ONGC, according to which IOC and ONGC have presently decided to acquire 10% shareholding of each other.

(c) The alliance would help synergise their operations for the common good of both and partake of current international trends of mutuality in working in the hydrocarbon sector. It could be a forerunner to possible vertical integration and help both companies to enhance their global standing and core competencies from "drilling to dispensing." While retaining focus on respective core business and competencies, both IOC and ONGC would explore investment options for securing assured growth and profitability.

Proposal to Hook-up pipelines

2589. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to hook-up the Kandla-Bhatinda and the Mathura-Ambala-Jalandhar pipelines;

(b) if so, the details thereof and progress so far made in this project;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the estimated amount of expenditure involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) Kandla-Bhatinda Pipeline has already been hooked up at Panipat to Mathura-Ambala-Jalandhar Pipeline in May, 1996. The completion cost of the project was Rs. 17.45 crores.

उत्तर प्रदेश में राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों तथा राज्यीय राजमार्गों पर पेट्रोल पम्प

2590. **श्री मुनव्वर हसन:** क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) उत्तर प्रदेश में राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों तथा राज्यीय राजमार्गों पर चल रहे पेट्रोल पम्पों का ब्यौरा क्या है और इनकी स्थापना एवं आबंटन संबंधी मानदंड क्या-क्या हैं,